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Local Brevities.

A marriage license was yesterday granted to Thomas Warren, of Wahkiakum county, Washington, and Pearl Owen, of Clatsop county.

The oriental liner Indramaha is on the way down the river with a very valuable cargo. She carries the third largest quantity of flour ever shipped out of the Columbia.

After the completion of the Simpson tunnel trains will run from Paris to Milan in fifteen hours. It is expected that the tunnel will be finished by December, 1905, four months sooner than the time limit.

Professor H. S. Lyman expects to leave in a few days for another trip over the state in the interests of the Oregon educational exhibit at the St. Louis fair. Yesterday he received word from Roseburg that the public schools of that town expected to have

the best exhibit from Oregon, or, at least, one equally as good as any other town, and it is evident that there will be no dearth of exhibits.

In 1878 nearly all (99.5 per cent) of the Russian railways belonged to private companies; in 1901 these companies owned only 33.5 per cent of them. In Germany private railway ownership decreased in the same period from 38 to 9 per cent.

One lone drunk was up before Police Judge Anderson yesterday. He had been in jail nearly two days awaiting trial, and the court let him off, after admonishing him to sin no more, which advice he promised to faithfully follow.

Captains Howes and Canu were in Portland Tuesday, and in conversation with a Journal reporter. Captain Howes said: "It is known that the bar is considerably deeper than it was before the Chinook came north, and when fine weather comes the dredge will certainly make a fine showing. The engineers

are progressing favorably with their soundings. They have been somewhat hampered, however, by the rough weather."

Loggers are delighted with the rain that fell yesterday and hope the down-pour will continue for a time. There has been but little rain this winter in the mountain region, with the result that few logs have been floated down to tide water.

February has started off very dull so far as realty transfers are concerned, and but one warranty deed has been filed since the first of the month. However, the usual number of other instruments have been filed, and the month will doubtless come up to the average.

There has been no particular rush of voters to the office of the county clerk yet, and the total registrations to date do not much exceed 200. The books do not close until May 15, but this is no reason why voters should delay, as there is always a rush toward the end that inconveniences the registration clerks.

Road Master Frye has been directed by the county court to meet with the supervisor of road district No. 6 and examine the timber in that locality. The examination is to be made preparatory to action on a request from the road supervisor of the district asking that the county saw mill be employed there to get out lumber for the road.

According to the annual report of Examiner Kiggins, of the United States civil service commission, the fiscal year ended June 30, 1903, was the most notable in the history of that body. The total number of persons examined, by educational tests and otherwise, during the year, was 112,624, as compared with 66,558 for the preceding fiscal year. The commission gave examinations at more than 1090 places throughout the country where there are local boards of examiners. The total number of persons appointed, promoted, transferred or reinstated was 40,267.

Preparations for the coming fishing season are being made at all river points. Fishermen are bringing their scows down to tide water, and gear is being stretched on racks between Astoria and Rainier. The scows are kept out of the path of storms and moored up the small streams that empty into the Columbia. Some fishing is already being done for the markets, and during the past week several fine chinook salmon have been displayed in this city. The outlook for the coming season is very bright, and fishermen express the opinion that the early runs of fish will be better than those of last year.

What is probably the largest spruce tree in the world was recently discovered in God's valley, the home of giant spruce trees. The discovery was made by W. S. Linkhart, of Nehalem City, who is visiting in Astoria. The monster measures 21 feet in diameter, or about 66 feet in circumference. Mr. Linkhart is unable to state the height of this monarch of the forest, but he believes it will be found to exceed that of any other spruce in the world. God's valley is on the north fork of the Nehalem, about 12 miles from the town of Nehalem. The largest spruce tree heretofore known is also located there.

The will of the late Harvey H. Thompson, of Hammond, was filed for probate in the office of County Clerk Clinton yesterday. The will was made at Astoria, is dated August 13, 1902, and is witnessed by C. R. Higgins and August Danielson. Mr. Thompson bequeathed all of his property, real and personal, to his wife, Ida M. Thompson, and named her as executrix of the estate, to serve without bonds. The petition for the appointment of Mrs. Thompson states that deceased owned personal property and money to the extent of \$2000 and real property of the value of \$500. Mrs. Thompson will be appointed executrix of the estate, although the order has not yet been signed by Judge Trenchard, not having been drawn up yesterday.

"In the Reign of the Empire," the bill at Fishers' last night, is one that with a well known author's name attached would crowd the theater in any city. Clara Mathes had a role that gave opportunity for the display of her ability, and she proved herself worthy of the high reputation that has preceded her. Her costumes were elegant, as they evidently were expensive. Little fault could be found with any of the support, although one or two of the minor characters might have been given more strength and precision. Taken altogether the performance may be safely pronounced as one of the real good ones this season. There is nothing cheap about the Clara Mathes

Company but the prices. Tonight's play is "A Daughter of Erin." Every one likes an Irish play and this comes recommended as not only being entirely new, but as one of the best of its class, with nothing to offend the most patriotic Irishman. The story is an interesting one and it is bright and laughable without descending to horse-play. The specialties are changed, many of the most amusing being introduced tonight.

Discussing the matter of the proper method of building public schools, a well known educator said yesterday he believed all school buildings should be but one story in height, and that, instead of erecting large buildings, the school board should aim to erect smaller structures, but more of them, and at locations easily accessible for school children. He pointed out that the health of children in the second and third story rooms is menaced by the foul air from the lower rooms. While the idea of one story school buildings is not general, Leland Stanford university was built largely on the plan suggested. Smaller buildings would minimize the danger of contagion, which can not well be prevented where several hundred children are gathered together almost every day in the week. Smaller school buildings would mean more structures, and pupils would be required to travel less in going to and from school—an important consideration. Dire consequences follow the marching of children up and down stairs, and there are scores of advantages in small buildings, whereas few, if any, can be advanced in favor of large structures.

Steps looking to the construction of a road that will entirely encircle the city were taken at yesterday morning's session of the county court. The plan was offered by George C. Fulton and Frank L. Parker. It is the purpose to commence the road in Alderbrook, the east end suburb, run it south along Mill creek to Young's bay and thence west to Smith Point and on to a connection with the improved streets of West Astoria. This would afford excellent connection with the county bridge crossing Young's bay, as well as with those streets ending on the line of the proposed road. Messrs. Fulton and Parker asked the court if it would assist the project and received the assurance that the plan commended itself favorably to the county officials. It is the intention to construct an excellent highway and to pave it with crushed rock, the expense to be borne by the property owners having land in the district to be tapped. This proposal settles the matter of the improvement of the road around Smith Point. A petition for the construction of the highway is necessary and the work of obtaining signatures to the request will be undertaken at once. The proposal is one of the most important of the kind ever attempted in Clatsop county.

Not long since a rather severe criticism of the local telephone service appeared in an Astoria paper, which took to task the operators, who were alleged to be negligent and hardly accommodating. Manager Brunold was asked about the matter yesterday. He said the service had been materially improved during the past year and that there was a general disposition on the part of management and operators to render the best service possible. Notwithstanding the improvements made, it frequently happens that subscribers are required to wait for a few moments because of press of business. The operators do the best they can in this respect, just as clerks do in the stores, where customers are compelled at times to wait before placing orders. Mr. Brunold explained that it was utterly useless ordinarily to ring for central more than once. The first two bells rung work the indicator in the office, and all the ringing that thereafter may be done is merely waste of energy. Party line subscribers frequently neglect to hang up receivers, with the result that the service of others on the line is impaired, for which, of course, "central" is held accountable and not infrequently scored. The young ladies do everything in their power to accommodate patrons of the company, and if a subscriber fails to always promptly receive the number he desires he should bear in mind that business is rushing in the central office. The greatest "kickers" are women and 99 out of 100 will vigorously ring the bell for central if they are not answered in an instant. Just why telephone subscribers neglect to observe reason is one of the mysteries of the age. The same persons make reasonable allowance for delays in other lines of business, but the telephone girls are never given the benefit of the doubt.

In the past forty years 4,000,000 persons have left Ireland.

The Muir glacier, in Alaska, was at one time the great scenic attraction of the tourist. When the Harriman expedition of scientists was there in 1899, the ship anchored close to its front, and the geologists, artists and photographers went ashore, and without difficulty secured the pictures. A few months later an earthquake shook up the mountain of ice, and the bay below became blocked with bergs, so that approach by water has since been impossible. No one knew what happened to the glacier. Two citizens of Skagway, named Andrews and Case,

made a journey on foot recently, and they report the actual conditions. Nearly three miles of the lower end of the glacier have broken away and the water of the bay reached back to a granite hill that was formerly an island in the glacier. The ice pack will melt soon, and when next tourists see the largest glacier in the world they will find two ice cliffs instead of one.

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